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Bitterroot College program interim director candidates to speak at public forum

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NEWS RELEASE

June 24, 2009

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BITTERROOT COLLEGE PROGRAM INTERIM DIRECTOR CANDIDATES TO SPEAK AT PUBLIC FORUM

MISSOULA -

The two finalists to become interim director of the fledgling Bitterroot College Program of The University of Montana will participate in a public forum in **Hamilton** on Wednesday, July 8.

Members of the public are invited to hear from and question the two candidates, Victoria Clark and Donald Gatzke. Finalists will give separate presentations in the Commissioners Conference Room (third floor), located at 215 S. Fourth St. in Hamilton. Gatzke will present from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., and Clark will present from 7:15 to 8 p.m.

Each candidate will speak for 15 minutes, followed by a half-hour question-and-answer session. The public is encouraged to provide feedback about the presentations to members of the search committee.

"This interim position is for one year, so we are looking for an energetic self-starter who will hit the ground running in this effort to bring more higher education opportunities to the Bitterroot Valley," said Sharon Alexander, search committee chair and UM Continuing

Education dean. "We value any input community members can provide during this hiring process."

"The interim director must be able to work with community members to get the college program off the ground," said Patricia Wilson Meakin, a member of the Bitterroot College Steering Committee. "This individual must work on a fast track so that postsecondary services are available for Ravalli County residents immediately."

Clark, a **Darby** resident, has directed Darby Adult Education since 2001. The program offers courses for work force development and personal enrichment. She also is a student enrollment and records specialist for Literacy Bitterroot, which offers Adult Basic Education and General Education Development preparation services. During the last four years, she has been a driving force in efforts to bring college-level and technical programs to Ravalli County.

Clark also worked as a project archaeologist for the Navajo Nation Archaeology Department in Flagstaff, Ariz., from 1991 to 1997. From 1987 to 1998, she was a staff archaeologist for various other projects, as well as a student teacher and substitute K-12 teacher.

She holds a master's degree in adult and postsecondary education from the University of Wyoming, a postbaccalaureate secondary teaching certification in history/social studies from Northern Arizona University and a bachelor's degree in European studies from Amherst College in Massachusetts.

Gatzke, a **Kalispell** resident, has owned and operated Educational Associates, PLLC since 1989. The company specializes in mediation, personal counseling and other confidential services for professionals. Gatzke also has worked as a business consultant, served on several

corporate and nonprofit boards, and developed and managed his own building and land-development company.

He was campus president of North Central Missouri College from 1986 to 1989, Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell from 1981 to 1986, the University of New Mexico-Gallup from 1979 to 1981 and Northwest College-University of Alaska from 1975 to 1979. He also has served as an associate provost, assistant dean, foreign student adviser and psychologist, among his other work experience.

Gatzke holds a doctorate in higher and adult education from the University of Missouri, a master's in guidance and counseling from UM and a bachelor's in business administration from Dakota Wesleyan University.

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